

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper



HPP: The final threat

The Hackney People's Press Collective - that invisible group of people who work through the small hours of the night in smoke-filled rooms in order to bring out the paper you know and love - have come to the sad conclusion that we can't carry on on our own anymore. Even though that could mean saying goodbye to one of the only publications in Hackney that tries to tell people the truth about what is going on in the borough.

Why have we made this decision? Well, for the past six months or so, even though our readership is still as big as ever, physical support for the paper has dwindled. All the responsibility for producing Hackney People's Press now rests on the shoulders of just four or five people, who have to dedicate all our spare time to bringing out each issue.

We have now realised that, however dedicated we are, we just can't cope with all that work.

With so few people to run the paper, there is less time for us to cover all the stories that are going on in the borough, and lay-out weekends - when we get each issue ready for the printers - can be a real nightmare! As a result, we feel that all our energy is being spent in trying to keep the paper afloat, when what is needed is a fresh new style and a committed approach to reporting news stories so that we can tackle all the problems affecting people in the borough and reach as many readers as possible.

We don't want the paper to fold, because we believe that Hackney needs, now more than ever, a radical alternative to the established press. But we cannot support this ideal without a lot more support and until that support comes, we cannot justify running the paper just by ourselves.

We will be holding a public meeting at Centerprise on Tuesday 17 November at 8pm, to discuss what future there is for an alternative paper in Hackney and how it should be run. If you have any ideas to contribute then please come along. We don't expect everyone to start writing articles and selling papers; we do need to know what sort of paper you want. After all, it is your paper.

END OF THE LINE

BR aim to kill City Link

British Rail are expected to announce the closure of the "City Link" this month. This is the rail line between Dalston Junction and Broad St, the last part of the North London Line. It is known that the closure notices have been prepared and the plans will be made public during November. The closure of the "City Link" will add yet further strain to Hackney's only other public transport, the overstretched bus service.

The closure of the line is part of BR's plan to redevelop Broad St and Liverpool St stations. This multi-million pound plan includes building a new station and four new office blocks.

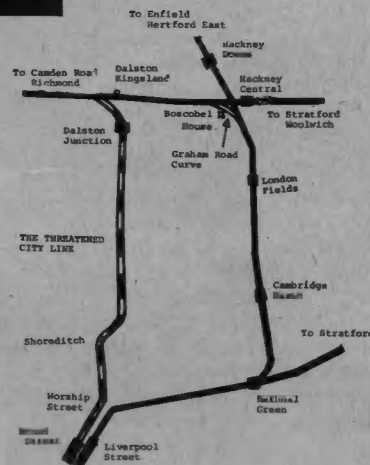
Local and out-of-town services into Liverpool Street would be catered for on the site throughout

other rail connections, would last a minimum of 9½ years and cause difficulties to passengers either because of the additional journey from Worship St. or by forcing switching to less convenient services.

Towards the end of the Liverpool Street redevelopment, 1992, British Rail promise to provide a service to it from the redevelopment but services into Broad St. are planned to terminate at a new, temporary station at Worship Street, about one third of a mile north of Broad St. Over one million passengers a year use the "City Link", some 180,000 of them, largely Hackney people travel to or from Dalston Junction. The termination of services at Worship St. away from the tube and

Dalston Kingsland, a new station to be built on the Crosstown Linkline next to Sainsburys on Kingsland High Street. This requires a new rail curve to be built across Hackney goods yard and the Graham Road enabling trains to go from Linkline via Bethnal Green into the new Liverpool Street. This will create a considerable noise nuisance to people living in Boscobel House and do little to win back the passengers lost from Dalston Junction as the new service will take 3 to 4 minutes longer than the journey on the present "City Link".

South Hackney needs a direct rail link to the City. This is recognised by Hackney Council and many local groups but not by British Rail. They alone think the buses from Dalston to the City are quite good enough. Nor is it just a question of passenger convenience. The whole future of Dalston as an employment, residential and shopping area depends partly on good transport links. A recent study by Hackney Public Transport Action Committee has shown a new station at Shoreditch is very feasible and that this would help revitalise the area. There is ample



scope to develop the "City Link", rather than destroy it.

Hackney Council, the North London Line Committee and Hackney Public Transport Action Committee are fighting the British Rail plan. However, the people of Hackney, individuals and groups alike, must show British Rail we need the "City Link". We can express our opinion through the Transport Users Consultative Committee a body that gives a recommendation to the Minister of Transport on British Rail's proposals. Look out for details of how to get in touch with the TUCC, or contact Hackney Public Transport Action Committee, 380 Old Street, ECI, for the latest details. Telephone 739 5137 (day) or 986 8625 (evenings). In the meantime, try and gain the support of your local councillors and Member of Parliament and write to Sir Peter Parker, Chairman of British Rail, Rail House Euston NW1, expressing your views on the "City Link" proposals.

Hundreds of people from Hackney were in the quarter-million that massed in Hyde Park in the giant CND demonstration on 24 October. Here is Hackney CND with banner.



photo: Andrew Haig

LETTERS

BIG FLAME

Dear HPP

Readers might like to know that Big Flame, the newspaper of the revolutionary organisation Big Flame, is about to bring out its one hundredth issue. It's a few more than HPP but that doesn't mean that we don't have the same kind of production difficulties that you mentioned in your recent issues.

The monthly paper is produced by a collective, and hopes to cover a broad range of struggles and campaigns for socialism, as well as having topical discussions; around contemporary issues. The paper attempts to raise the links between workplace, community and international struggles and also areas such as personal and cultural politics which are often seen as 'luxury' items amongst the Left. Running through all articles is a commitment to a feminist perspective, and particular support for the struggles of black people, gays and the struggle in Ireland.

The centenary issue will include some of our archive material, bits and pieces from the last ten years of Big Flame, as well as continuing the debates around the direction for the anti-nuclear movement, in or out, or half way in between the Labour Party, the need for socialist feminist perspectives and finally ... Brother Goose our cartoon, and articles from outside Big Flame.

The paper is on sale at Centerprise bookshop, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, price 20p. We can be contacted at the address below.

Hackney Big Flame
Box 33, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

local music

Dear HPP

Could I use your letters page to tell your readers that Hackney Musicians' Collective is willing to provide bands for local community organisations who want to put on benefits to raise money.

Any local organisation interested should write to us c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Yours sincerely
Mel Oxer
Hackney Musicians' Collective.

Promises well

An open letter to Hackney Labour Parties on the draft manifesto for the 1982 elections.

Dear comrades,

I am writing to congratulate you on the publication of your draft manifesto. As socialists, sharing a democratic and socialist perspective, Hackney Communists welcome your commitment to consultation about the contents of the draft manifesto.

From experience, I know that it is much easier to criticise than to create. The aim of the points below is to draw people's attention to some problems in the draft. I hope that you will find these comments useful.

In the actual contents of the draft there is much that is good and stimulating, for example, the commitment to caring so evident in the social services section and the determination to decentralise Council services, to name just two. There are, however, some significant criticisms to be made.

1. People's involvement

There are many proposals for change in the manifesto. But there is no analysis of from where the mass support for change is going to come. No major change for the better will take place without the action, pressure, understanding and active involvement of literally thousands of local people. The lack of positive proposals on this makes the document more like a local authority report than a manifesto for democratic and socialist change.

2. Racism

There is no section on the struggle against racism. This is a very sad omission. The Council has been pressing ahead trying to develop an equal opportunities policy. But the success or failure of this policy is not analysed. Wider questions of racial and specific measures to overcome it receive no mention.

3. Women

There is no section on Council or Labour Party policy to combat discrimination against women. But discrimination against women is a major feature of almost all institutions and certainly the Hackney Council.

4. Real Programmes

Many statements of intent are made throughout but, in general, they are not related to any programme of actual work. Combined with the absence of an analysis of the forces for change (and against it!) this makes the manifesto seem unrealistic and vague in some sections. This means that a future Labour Council, if elected, is committed to many 'good things' and, in some sections, to very specific measures but the whole seems unworked-out.

5. Independent Organisation

The manifesto is not clear about whether the Labour Party does, or does not, support the development of independent organisations. Yet the Council and the Labour Party have been in continuous trouble over this most notably in relation to the tenants movement (the manifesto makes good proposals here) and in relation to black and ethnic minority organisations (no proposals). There should be a clear declaration of support for the development of independent organisations of people.

6. The Last Manifesto

Of course, we may all be wiped out if Reagan gets his way. But this point deals with the 1978 manifesto. There is no analysis of the real difficulties encountered in implementing the last manifesto. Only occasionally is it mentioned - e.g. the leisure section. This is very serious because so many people think that all politicians just make silly promises which they have no intention of keeping.

7. Alternative Economic Strategy

The manifesto just does not relate to it. Nor is there any worked out relationship between the actions of the Hackney Council to be and the Labour GLC. The section on the local economy is based on the assumption that the Council's main role is to help private enterprise regenerate Hackney's economy. This is a continuation of the Council's existing policy and is one which is not working, will not work and urgently needs changing.

8. Accountability and Control

The difficult issue of how and to whom councillors are accountable is not discussed. So there is no discussion of possible ward councils, report backs etc. At present Labour councillors are accountable to Labour group. Is this how we want to continue? Nor is there any discussion of the need to reform local government to ensure that councillors not Council officials control Council policy.

9. Industrial Relations

These have been a major problem for Labour in Hackney for the last four years. Yet there is no mention of them. The workers for the Council are a very important part of the community in Hackney. What proposals does Labour have for their involvement? Also, the Council should be a wages and conditions leader but this receives scant attention.

10. Community Development

The structure of the document is based around the structure of local Council committees. But there are no proposals

for community development - the Council's newest committee. Surely there should be an outline policy. Nor, incidentally, is there anything about the Administration committee.

The political parties of the left have a great responsibility to develop a wider dialogue about ways in which to change our society in a democratic and socialist direction. Everyone has something to learn from each other. The political parties have much to learn from other movements as well as each other. In this connection Hackney Communists hope that new ways of discussion and co-operation can be established and that these comments will be interpreted in that spirit - which is the spirit in which they are written.

Finally, may I express the hope that after the consultative conference and the actual decisions of the Labour Party on your manifesto you will publish a popular pamphlet containing the main points. The last manifesto was printed in only 500 copies - not even enough for local activists in the labour movement. Labour's GLC manifesto has not, to my knowledge, ever been published in popular form. Without equipping thousands of local people with a clear idea of Labour's local strategy for change the major initiatives are bound to fail. How about it?

Yours in comradeship,
David Green
secretary
Hackney Communist Party

No access

Dear HPP

Recently I set off on one of my favourite rambles (Epping New Road-Copped Hall-Woodredon Farm-Epping Forest) and found to my dismay that the old established public footpath has been covered over by an enormous wheatfield. The old ladder stile, which marked the beginning of the path has been dismantled, and the public right of way is now inaccessible. I think that this is very wrong. The farmer is obviously aware of what he's done, because a layby for cars has been built at the beginning of the footpath. You are supposed to sit in your car and admire the view but you mustn't walk across the land. The farmer has also put up an official looking sign saying "Access to ladder stile 50 yards further on", but there is no access, no stile and the signs marking the footpath are all broken down and in the middle of a very impenetrable wheatfield.

What can we do? I would like to know what readers think.

Yours sincerely

Liz Waugh.

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INSIDE OUT...

Exhausted after a season of party conferences and with a pen quite empty of vitriol, Inside Left has taken a short break in a well-known spa. He hopes to be strong enough to resume his duties and will send a dispatch for next month's issue.



CRISIS HITS CENTERPRISE

A severe financial crisis may force Hackney's best known community landmark to close. Just a few months after celebrating its tenth anniversary the workers and Council of Management have announced that drastic cuts in staff and services are now being made, in order to break even during the rest of the financial year.

A staff member who had gone on maternity leave would not be replaced while she is away, and a bookshop worker leaving at the end of the year will also not be replaced. The coffee bar will now close every evening at 8pm, no new books will be published and those that go out of print will not be reprinted. The general office will now only be open in the afternoons so that community groups etc wanting to use the duplicators and other facilities will not be able to get access in the mornings.

meeting

The Centerprise workers told HPP that they hoped the cuts will only be temporary. They are now organising a series of meetings which will get users involved in lobbying the Council and other bodies, and volunteering time and skills in helping run the slimmed down Centerprise.

A meeting on 12 October



set up a Users Support Group which is hoping to involve actively those individuals and organisations which use the building and its

resources.

Centerprise was founded in 1971 in Dalston Lane. It moved to its present site in Kingsland High Street in 1974. The joint coffee bar and bookshop is the central core of the project, but around that have been established an advice centre, exhibition space for local artists, a publishing project which publishes the poems and stories of local writers, free meeting rooms for community groups and an adult literacy scheme. The centre has very close links with local schools who bring classes in to select books, and use material published by Centerprise to give classes a strong local content.

donations

One of the reasons that Centerprise has become so well-known is that it provides resources for a large number of groups in Hackney. Free meeting rooms and cheap duplicating facilities are a central part of the project. For instance, nearly 60 issues of Hackney People's Press were typed and pasted up using Centerprise facilities and the paper would not have survived in its earlier days if it had not been for the very generous help given by the project.

If you would like to help Centerprise through its crisis and want to know how best to help, then call in or phone 254 9632 between 2 and 6pm Tuesday to Friday. Please send donations - as much as you can afford! - to Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

WHY NO WORK?

Interviewing the Manager of Hackney Employment Office I was able to obtain the following information with regard to the employment situation in Hackney.

There is a great shortage of unskilled vacancies in the area. It is this type of employment that the majority of unemployed people are seeking. If you are a skilled engineer or experienced in the clothing trade then your prospects of obtaining work are reasonably good.

Clerical vacancies of a general nature are scarce in the area but can be obtained if you are prepared to travel to either the City or West End.

The Manager informed me that there are some signs that perhaps we have seen the worst of the recession and that perhaps the demand for labour - especially unskilled - could be on the increase. He would advise job seekers to use the services of employment officers and job centres as often as possible.

My opinion after carefully listening to the Manager and obtaining a first, second and third report from him refreshed me in coming crucially to problems facing us as black and white living in Hackney. We were all equal.

UP IN COURT

Court cases involving people arrested and charged during the uprisings in July continue to come to court and more cases are expected during November.

The Old Bailey trial for six youths will start some time during the month, although no date has yet been fixed. They have been charged with various offences arising out of a robbery on a jewellers.

PICKET

The Hackney Legal Defence Committee has called a picket when another person charged in July, Lloyd Lee, comes up again in court on Wednesday 4 November. The picket will start at Old Street Court at 10 am.

Jobless come together

At the end of October groups of unemployed people from all over the country will be converging on Goldsmiths College in Lewisham to launch the first national movement of the unemployed since before the war.

The Conference has been called by a steering committee based in Leicester, with delegates from other parts of the country. It is the third national conference this year.

The London conference is being organised by the London and South East Federation of Unemployed, Unwaged and Claimants Groups, which was established in June.

The Federation is also developing its own activities and has drawn up a list of priorities. These include:

Fares. The Federation is seeking a commitment from the GLC for a free fare system for unemployed people. Such a scheme already exists in Tyne and Wear and Strathclyde.

Youth Unemployment. The Federation is trying to contact other organisations who are equally concerned about the current levels of youth unemployment and the exploitation of youth on MSC YOP schemes.

DHSS Special Offices. The Federation is seeking the closure of the DHSS special offices in Marshalsea Road and Scarborough Street where homeless claimants are given daily cash payments.

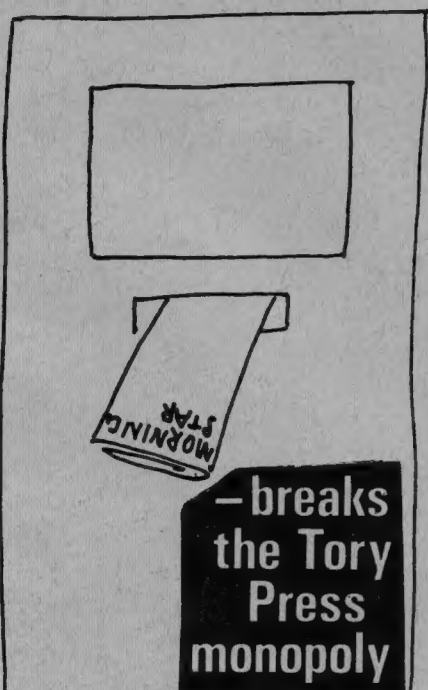
Recreation and leisure. The Federation would like to see a commitment from the GLC and all London boroughs to free recreational and leisure provision for unemployed people. The scheme in Hackney is the first step towards this.

Women and ethnic minorities. The Federation is concerned about the level of unemployment among women and ethnic minorities, which is disproportionate, and about their under-representation in organisations of the unemployed. The Islington group is planning a special women's conference to discuss this issue.

The Federation has approached the GLC about a grant to cover office space and running costs. At the moment, however, it is wholly dependent on donations. If you can help in any way, then please contact the secretary: Geoff Bender, London and South East Federation of Unemployed, Unwaged and Claimants Unions, c/o 135 Rye Lane, London SE15.

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Hackney TENANT

The monthly newspaper of the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations
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You can't 'live' in Hackney without it!

TAPE/SLIDE

Task Force, the voluntary group that works with pensioners, has made a slide show with a taped background. They use it when giving talks. It helps to get a lively discussion going. The slides change automatically when

a special bleep comes on the tape, so that all the speaker has to do is to connect up the machine.

The John Groom Tenants' Association, a disabled people's group, made a slide show with the help of Freeform. It took two days to make a five minute show. They said afterwards: "There was a tremendous response. It put over the problems of disabled people in an amusing way. It

really made people think, in a way in which a speaker or a leaflet wouldn't have done. It wasn't much effort and we really enjoyed doing it." The slide show was like a Keystone Cops film, with a piano music background and simple commentary like "Oops" out onto slides.

CINE FILM

Each year Hackney Marshes Festival has been recorded

on cine film. At first the films were silent, simply made and only cost a few pounds. Now they have become more sophisticated, with a script written beforehand and the participation of a theatre group.

The films give a flavour of the Festival in a way in which a speaker can't. They are used to show people what the Festival was like, and to inspire the planners of the following year's events.

ARE YOU BEING HEARD

Grants available for publicity

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is offering £1500 to community groups in Hackney to help them promote themselves through better communication. Examples on this page show how some local groups already use graphics, photography and audio-visual media to tell others about themselves. If you think that your organisation could communicate better with the rest of Hackney then apply now for a grant! Details below.

WHAT ARE THE GRANTS FOR ?

The grants will be to pay for the material costs of projects such as videos, slide-tape shows, pamphlets, posters etc. It is hoped that this will stimulate the smaller community groups without resources such as duplicators, video recorders and cameras to use more fully the facilities of those larger groups that do have them and make them available.

HOW MUCH ?

Since the total amount of money available is only £1500, it is hoped that most grant applications will be in the region of £50 per group to allow the broadest coverage. Naturally, larger applications will be considered, but their chance of success may be less than the smaller ones.

WHO CAN APPLY ?

Any Hackney community group can apply for these grants as long as they do not represent a party political or commercial interest. Preference will be given to those smaller groups that do not have funding from other sources.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a grant send a letter to:
Hackney Community Action, Shoreditch Town Hall, Community Wing, 380 Old Street, London, EC1.
This letter should provide brief details of:
* What you hope to do with the grant.
* Who do you hope to reach.
* How much it is likely to cost.

WHO WILL DECIDE ?

A panel will be elected at a Hackney Community Action Open Meeting, once the applications are all in. The details of the meeting will be publicised well in advance.

If you need help or advice with your application telephone:
Martin Udwin,
Media Resources Officer,
Hackney Library Services,
739-7600 Ext. 230

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER

POSTERS

Graham Road and District Residents' Group have used striking graphics in their struggle to ban juggernaut lorries from their road. Their poster campaign was such a success that lorries became a key election issue and the campaign became the



subject of a half-hour TV programme. The campaign has yet to win its battle to get even a night-time ban on lorries, but it certainly shows its strength by an impressive display of posters all along Graham Road.

VIDEO

Lea View Tenants Association made a video about the modernisation planned for their estate. They showed

it on the estate, and at the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations AGM. The video provoked useful discussions and tenants who hadn't been active in the association before got involved in making the video.

EXHIBITION

The Save the Marshes Action Group have used a number of photographic exhibitions to inform the public and

politicians about their campaign to save Walthamstow Marshes from being turned into gravel pits. Photographs of local plants and wildlife and general views of the marshes themselves have been successful in terms of persuading the Nature Conservancy in declaring the area to be one "of outstanding natural interest" and in getting the plans defeated at the Lea Valley Regional Authority.

WHAT'S ON No fuel this xmas

Theatre

NEW HALF MOON THEATRE

213 Mile End Road E1.

Tue 27 Oct - Sat 14 Nov:

'Hosannah' by Michel Tremblay. With Jim Hooper and Ian Geller. Directed by Bill Pride. Perfs: 8pm (Tue 27: 7pm)

Tue 17 Nov - Sat 5 December: 'The Dog Beneath the Skin', by W.H. Auden & C. Isherwood. Perfs: 8pm.

For further details and cost of tickets, phone the box office on 790 4000.

OLD HALF MOON THEATRE

27 Alie Street, E1.

Until Sat 7 Nov: Mrs Worthington's Daughters in 'Angels of War'. Perfs: 8pm.

Mon 9 - Sat 21 November: English Company Theatre in 'A Slight Joke'. Perfs: 8pm.

Mon 23 November - Sat 5 Dec: 'Missing' by Briany Lavery. Perfs: 8pm.

THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST

Gerry Raffles Sq, E15.

Wed 4 - Sat 7 November: 'A Time for Celebration' by Newham Youth Theatre. Perfs: 8pm.

Tickets: £2 (concessions for OAPs & unwaged)

Wed 11 - Sat 28 November: 'Thick As Thieves' by Tony Marchant. Perfs: 8pm.

Tickets: £2.50 (concessions)

Sun 29 Nov - Tue 1 December: 'In Transit' performed by a black theatre group.

Perfs: 8pm

Tickets: £4, £3, £2. (With concessions).

For further details phone the box office.

HACKNEY'S ALTERNATIVE CABARET

Upstairs at the Crown & Castle, Dalston Junction.

Alternative cabaret every Saturday night.

Door open 9pm; show starts 10pm.

Late bar till 12.30, plus food.

Entrance fee: £1.50; unwaged with relevant card: £1.

Acts in November include:

Jim Barclay (comedian), Simon Prager (Blues singer/guitarist), Magic for Socialism, Bob Gilbert, Swing Sisters, Pinkspots, Nigel Planer, Pauline Melville.

CHATS PALACE

42-44 Brooksby's Walk, E9: (Telephone: 986 6714)

Sat 31 October at 8pm:

Chats Palace Music Hall with Johnny Denis, Carol Ball, Bob Hornery, Annabell Lee, Jim McManus and Tony Locantro. £1.50, 75p unwaged.

Sun 1 November at 8pm:

Chats Palace Music Hall (as Saturday). £1.50, 75p unwaged.

Sun 1 November at 12 noon:

Lunchtime trad jazz with Graham Read's Futuristic Rhythmi 60p, accompanied children free.

Thurs 5 November at 8pm:

The Madhouse Company present 'Scenes from the Madhouse'. Madhouse takes a highly physical look at the mind and is an insane view of insanity, as well as an evening of mindless fun. £2, £1 unwaged.

Fri 6 & Sat 7 November at 8pm: British Events Theatre Co. in 'Storm Warnings' £2, £1 unwaged.

Sun 8 November at 12 noon: Lunchtime Jazz with the John

Bennett Big Band. 60p, accompanied children free.

Thurs 12 November at 8pm: Modern Jazz with Jazz Mime Quartet. £1.50, 75p unwaged.

Buses: 22, 22a, 277, 253, 30, S2. BR Hackney Central/Downs.

For further details of Chats' November programme, phone 986 6714.

HACKNEY MUSICIANS' COLLECTIVE

Live gigs every Thursday night 8-11pm at the Britannia pub, Mare St (next to the Town Hall).

Nov 5: The Deviations & Support

Nov 12: The Badges & Wa Pacha

Nov 19: First Offence plus Support

Nov 26: Walking Wounded & The Fleas.

Any local bands wanting to play at the Britannia should contact Hackney Musicians Collective at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8. (Meetings there every Tuesday at 7.45pm).

Meetings

EAST LONDON ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Thursday 26 November: Meeting to discuss the current situation in Hackney and Tower Hamlets. 8pm at the offices of the London Tenants' Organisation, 17 Victoria Park Sq.

EAST LONDON GAY LIBERATION FRONT

The East London Gay Liberation Front is a group of gay men and women working together in East London to advance the cause of gay rights. Recent activities have included: major participation in the organisation of two large events for both gays and heterosexuals; working to improve coverage of gay subjects in public libraries; participating in a survey of the attitudes of GLC councillors.

Those interested in finding out more about the activities of East London GLF are welcome to come to meetings, which are held on:

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month, at the Whole Thing, 53 West Ham Lane, Stratford, E15. (Wheelchair access - one step, help available). Or write to:

GLF,

98 Balfron Tower,

St Leonard's Road,

LONDON E14.

EAST LONDON WORKERS AGAINST RACISM (ELWAR)

Activists' meetings held regularly. For further details and information, phone Lindsey on: 274 3951.

HACKNEY CYPRIOT ASSOCIATION

Saturday 7 November: Dinner & Dance, with live Greek and Turkish music, Cypriot folk dances, delicious food.

7.30-11.30pm at the Assembly Hall, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16.

Admittance £5 (including food) For tickets apply:

5 Balls Pond Road, N1, or phone: 249 4494/254 8605.

HACKNEY CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

ADVICE SESSIONS FOR THE DISABLED

Held on the last Friday of every month - sessions from 10.00-12.30am

At the Alfred Heath Centre, 186 Homerton High St, E9.

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HACKNEY NORTH & HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTIES

RIOTS IN HACKNEY: POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday 10 November at 7.30 pm

Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N.16.

Speakers include:

Patrick Kodikara Joe Davies

A speaker from the Hackney Black Peoples' Association

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Tel : 254 6677

NOVEMBER

Mon 2 for 6 days: SITTING DUCKS & SIR HENRY AT RAWLINSON'S END

Mon 9 for 6 days: GREGORY'S GIRL & WHISKY GALORE

Mon 16 for 6 days: QUARTET

Sunday Matinees

1 November 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

15 November BELLE DE JOUR & VINDIANA

29 November: YUJIMBO & SANJURO

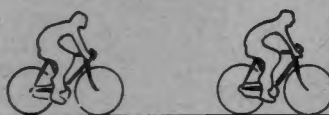
As the full details of the Rio's November film programme was not known as we went to press, please ring the Rio Box Office for further information.

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xmas

A report by the Greater London Citizens Advice Bureaux Service published last month reveals that many families in London are deprived of a supply of electricity for heating, lighting and cooking because they are too poor to afford to pay their electricity bills. Many more who have difficulty in paying their bills live under threat that their electricity supply will be disconnected.

CHILDREN HIT

Families hardest hit are those already struggling to survive: single parents, households with young children and families dependent on supplementary benefit. Once the electricity supply has been disconnected their large debts and low incomes mean that there is often little prospect of reconnection.

"It is amazing that in the 1980's there should be families in Britain living without a supply of electricity" said Sean Baine, Director of the Greater London Citizens' Advice Bureaux (GLCABS). "Yet this is just the position for thousands of households in London today. It is a scandal that poverty should deprive families of such a basic necessity as an electricity supply."

The report is a result of two surveys of people who visited Citizens' Advice Bureaux in London because of the problems they were having in paying their bills. One survey showed that 75% of these consumers had incomes of less than £50 per week. Overall, half the people approaching the Citizens' Advice bureaux had already been disconnected, and between 30% and 50% had debts of over £200.

In two thirds of the cases the household included children under 11 years old, and a third of households were one parent families.

The report is critical of the London Electricity Board's record for handling its poorest consumers. It shows that the LEB pays little attention to the size of the debt, how it arose, or the consumer's circumstances or income.

ARBITRARY

POLICY

"The number of disconnections in London has dropped in recent months in response to the criticisms made by the Citizens' Advice Bureaux and other Welfare agencies", commented Sean Baine. "But the policies and practice of the LEB and its district offices still remain arbitrary and inconsistent. Without clearly stated uniform procedures for dealing with debts, poorer consumers are bound to suffer. And as long as the LEB are allowed to disconnect without going through the courts, consumers have little protection from harsh treatment by the Board."

He concluded: "If the lives of thousands of London's families are not to be made intolerable through disconnection, threatened or actual, then action must be taken by both the LEB and the Government."

STAFFA FIGHT ON

The dispute at Staffa Products Ltd. in Leyton continues despite the ending of the occupation by a force of 300 Police who broke into the factory evicting the workers. Although virtually ignored by the mass-media the large numbers of Police involved in the military-style operation has led to comparisons with the use of company Police in the USA in the 1930's. Convenor Dave Green described the operation as "Disgusting... the company are using the Police for their own ends".

The dispute began when the company, owned by the American multinational Brown and Sharpe decided to close the plant and relocate it in Plymouth with the aid of a Government grant and the loss of over 300 local jobs. The company claimed the move was necessary because the Leyton site was becoming uncompetitive and that the workers would all have the opportunity of moving with the firm to Plymouth. However documents produced by business consultants

Hay Communications discovered by the occupying workers stated that of the 400 staff at Leyton "You will seek to transfer only 50, identified as key people for the operation." Another report written by Staffa directors reveals the real reason for the move as pure greed, rather than London becoming unprofitable. Reduced Labour costs and Government development grants would allow the firm to make "additional profits" between 1981 and 1986 from the £7 million they would make

at Leyton to a predicted £10 million. This may make sense to the company accountants, but not to the 300 plus workers who, partly due to Government grants designed to create employment, were sacked without notice two days after being evicted.

The Staffa dispute is the first real fightback over jobs in London for six years and is important to all who live and work in London and whose jobs may also be at risk if the company succeed with their plan-

ned move. Now that the occupation is over the workers are continuing their action with a blacking campaign to prevent the export of Staffa's hydraulic motors.

Victory at Staffa is still attainable given the support of other workers, and would be an inspiration to others in the struggle against job losses both locally and nationally. All offers of support, donations etc. may be sent to Chris Newson, AUEW Strike Committee, 39 Somers Road, Walthamstow, E17. Telephone 521 6798.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS has regular meetings on Mondays at 8pm at our new office at 47a Grayling Road, N.16. (Down access road beside no.47). If you would like to help write, produce or sell the next issue, then please come along. Or you can ring 806 9211 (evenings and weekends) or leave a message for us on 809 2889 (days).

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF HPP

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS wants to find out what YOU think about your paper. We shall be holding a public meeting at Centerprise on Tuesday 17 November (8pm) and if you have anything you want to say about the paper, we urge you to come along. Whether or not you can get to the meeting, we would also like you fill in this simple questionnaire, so that we can find out just what you want from Hackney People's Press.

1. How often do you read Hackney People's Press?
(Please tick one box):
Read every issue ☐
Read most issues ☐
Occasionally read it ☐
Rarely read it ☐

2. Where do you usually get your copy of HPP?
Newsagents ☐
Centerprise ☐
From HPP seller ☐
Read someone else's copy ☐

3. Do you often find it difficult to get hold of a copy?
Yes/No

4. Do you think HPP is value for money? Yes/No

5. Why do you read HPP? _____

6. Do you think the paper keeps you in touch with what is going on in Hackney? Yes/No

7. What do you think about particular features in the paper?
(Please tick in the appropriate box):

	GOOD	FAIR	BORING	AWFUL
Coverage of local politics.....				
Coverage of community activities..				
Quality/Style of articles.....				
What's On Page/Information.....				
Cartoons/Pictures.....				
Design of paper.....				

8. Is there anything you particularly like or dislike about the paper? _____

9. How do you think HPP could be improved? (Here are a few examples but please add your own):

More local information.....
Have different political viewpoints.....
Coverage of sexual politics.....
Coverage of ethnic minorities.....
Better feedback from local community groups...
More stuff for kids.....
More entertainment (music, film reviews etc.).
Make it more readable.....

Please tick

Other improvements _____

10. Would YOU be prepared to become involved in any way with the paper (writing articles, helping with layout, selling it, etc.)? Yes/No

If Yes, in what ways would you be prepared to help? _____

11. Are there any other comments you want to make about the paper? _____

Thank you. Could you please write your name, address and/or contact telephone number and send this questionnaire to HPP at 47a Grayling Road, London N16, or send it to Hackney People's Press c/o 136 Kingsland High St, London E8.

Name: _____ Tel. No: _____

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PETTY BUREAU

